



Parent & Carer Newsletter

w/b 9 November 2020

New Term and new Public Health Messages for Lochside Academy

It was good to welcome young people and school staff back to school after our October holiday break on Monday 26th October.

At the end of the first week of the new term on Friday 30th October, the Scottish Government published an updated Strategic Framework for dealing with Covid-19, bringing in five tiers which local authority areas are being placed in depending on the prevalence of the virus and the risks in each area. Lochside Academy, virtue of being a school in Aberdeen City, was placed in Tier 2. By working together and adhering to the public health guidance we can make continued positive progress in suppressing the spread of the virus and hopefully ensuring a return to some degree of normality as swiftly as possible.

This Parent and Carer Update has been written to inform you on how some of these new public health messages impact on young people and school staff at Lochside Academy. I trust that in reading this update you will be best placed to speak to your child(ren) about these messages and working together, so we can continue to support our pupils to understand and adjust to the "new normal" that we are all experiencing. As always, on behalf of all the staff at Lochside Academy, "thank you" to all our young people, parents and carers for ensuring that Lochside Academy continues to work hard to keep everybody safe during these challenging times.

Neil Hendry, Head Teacher

Guidance Teacher changes in Alvie House & Gowan House



On Friday 6th November we said goodbye to Mrs Angela Cowie, Principal Teacher of Guidance for Alvie House, on her last day at Lochside Academy. I am sure you will all want to both thank Mrs Cowie for all her work both at Torry Academy and Lochside Academy and we wish her every success in her new post.

From Monday 9th November Mrs Laura Fyvie will be Acting Principal Teacher of Guidance for Alvie House to take over from Mrs Cowie. Mrs Fyvie's current role as Acting Principal Teacher of Guidance for Gowan House on a Monday will be filled by Dr Sandra Millar.

As of Tuesday 5th January 2021 I am also delighted to inform you that Mrs Nicola Horne will be joining us from Lathallan School as Principal Teacher of Guidance for Alvie House. Upon Mrs Horne's starting on 5th January, Mrs Fyvie will return to her role as PT Guidance for Gowan House on a Monday.

If you have any questions regarding these changes then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Face Covering Update

As you will be aware, Scottish Government rules introduced the wearing of face coverings in secondary school buildings, except inside a classroom, on Monday 31st August. With the recent introduction by the Scottish Government of a 5 tier system to suppress the transmission of Covid-19, Aberdeen City was placed in Tier 2. Essentially this means that the wearing of face coverings in school buildings, except inside a classroom, continues for all pupils and staff.

It should be noted that if Aberdeen City is moved by the Scottish Government to Tier 3, then all S4, S5 and S6 pupils would be required to wear face coverings at all times from the start to the end of the school day.

We all have a responsibility to follow the public health measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and the wearing of face coverings is central to the government’s strategy to achieve this. In school, we must take the necessary steps to protect both young people **and** school staff from Covid-19 within the school setting. With this in mind, it must be stressed that not wearing a face covering in the appropriate places, unless exempt, is absolutely unacceptable and discussing this and impressing this with your child(ren) is greatly appreciated.

As a reminder, face coverings must be worn:

- on all school and public transport to and from school;
- entering and leaving the school and moving around in the corridors to get to classes;
- queuing in the canteen area at break and lunchtime, but not whilst eating.

HOW TO WEAR YOUR MASK

CORRECT:



INCORRECT:



DON'T: Wear the mask under your nose.



DON'T: Leave your chin exposed.

Physical Education Update

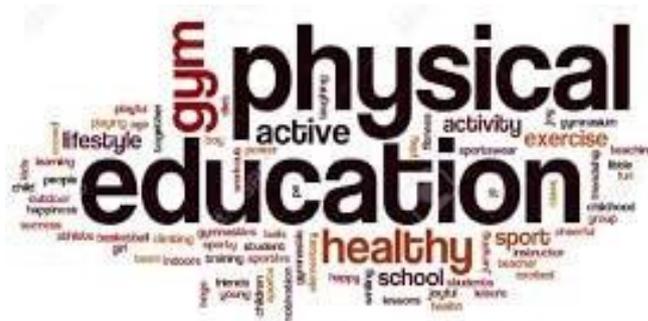
Following the publication of the updated Physical Education Guideline (Version 6.0) on the 30th October 2020, I am writing to inform you of changes which will start from Monday 9th November regarding the delivery of Physical Education in school.

The national guidance now allows secondary Physical Education to take place indoors. The school will be putting the following mitigations in place:

- Indoor spaces will be well ventilated
- Physical distancing will be encouraged where possible
- Teacher demonstrations will be done in an assigned area to ensure they stay an appropriate distance from pupils
- Teachers will stay 2 metres from pupils at all times
- Changing rooms will **not** be in use so pupils should arrive in school in PE kit on the days they have Physical Education lessons
- When equipment is used it will be carefully cleaned before the next use/between each lesson
- Hand sanitiser stations will be in use before classes enter the indoor space
- Careful consideration will be given to the selection of appropriate activities for the indoor lesson

We will still, whenever possible, be outside for Physical Education lessons however, as we move into the winter months we do need to plan for indoor lessons.

Along with the national guidelines a risk assessment will be put in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of young people and adults is not compromised.



Reminder about dropping off & picking up children

Reminder that parents and carers are not permitted in the school building, school grounds or staff car park without prior agreement. Parents and carers who drop off their child(ren) must avoid driving onto the school estate. As a consequence, children being dropped off or picked up must take place at the roundabout beside Ikea as you approach the school estate (see photo below). Your cooperation with this will be greatly appreciated and ensures that school staff can be assigned to other roles in school instead of monitoring a gate. Having said that, thank you to the vast majority of parents and carers that have been cooperating with this rule and your positive response to this necessary change.

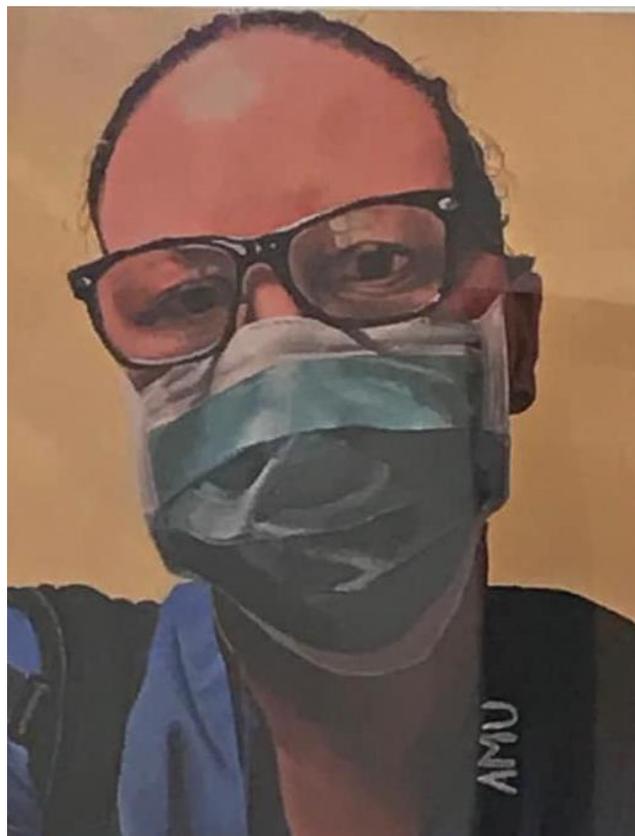


Speaking to a member of school staff

If a parent / carer wishes to talk to a member of school staff, they should telephone the school office in the first instance (01224 241720) and must avoid coming into the school building to request or arrange such a meeting.



Lockdown 2020 Artwork



We were delighted to unveil this painting by one of our very talented S6 students, Cate Buchanan. The stunning work of art, which Cate painted during Lockdown, is hanging at the front of school. This will be a permanent thank-you to everyone that served and continues to serve during these challenging times.

